

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SCI-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 DRC-01 HEW-08 IO-14 SMI-01

NSF-04 AID-20 MED-03 H-03 /134 W
----- 014098

R 031305Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 920

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS PONTA DELGADA 258

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS : CPRS, TPHY

SUBJECT : EARTHQUAKE PICO AND FAIAL

REFERENCE: PONTA DELGADA 255

1. CONSULAR OFFICER VISTED PICO AND FAIAL NOVEMBER
29-30. NO AMERICAN CITIZEN SUFFERED PERSONAL INJUREIS
OR IMPORTANT PROPERTY DAMAGE DURING EARTHQUAKE NOV 23.
OFFICER SPOKE WITH ABOUT ONE THIRD AMERICANS ON PICO
AND VERIFIED WHEREABOUTS OF OTHERS WITH NEIGHBORS.

2. PRINCIPAL AREAS OF FAIAL AFFECTED WERE CONCEICAO
PARISH IN HORTA AND FLAMENGOS VALLEY BEHIND CITY.
ON PICO, AREAS AFFECTED WERE SAO MATEUS ON SOUTH COAST
AND BANDEIRAS, SAO MIGUEL ARCANJO AND SAO ROQUE ON
NORTH COAST. SEVERE EXTERNAL STRUCTURAL DAMAGE VISIBLE

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IN BUILDINGS ALL OF THESE PLACES. NO BUILDINGS COLLAPSED
COMPLETELY BUT TOPS OF MANY WALLS FELL, AND SOME ROOFS.
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BUILDINGS AFFECTED WERE OF STONE CONSTRUCTIONS ,EITHER

WITHOUT MORTAR OR HELD TOGETHER WITH CLAY OR CEMENT.
VERY FEW REINFORCED CONCRETE BUILDINGS SUFFERED VISIBLE
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

3. ON PICO, MORE THAN 3700 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED
FROM HOMES, ARE STAYING WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES IN
UNAFFECTED PARTS OF ISLAND OR ON OTHER ISLANDS. A FEW
ARE TEMPORARILY STAYING IN TENTS PROVIDED BY PORTUGUESE
ARMY. ONLY A DOZEN TENTS WERE SEEN IN TOUR ALL AROUND
ISLAND. PROBABLY ABOUT SAME NUMBER OF PERSONS DISPLACED
ON FAIAL.

4. ABOUT FIFTY CASES MEASLES REPORTED ON PICO. LOCAL
GOVERNMENT HAS OBTAINED VACCINE FROM RED CROSS
AND IS TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF MEASLES AND OTHER
DISEASES. CIVIL GOVERNOR OF HORTA IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AT LISBON, IS REQUESTING AND APPARENTLY
OBTAINING EVERYTHING NEEDED. OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM USFORAZ
POLITELY REJECTED.

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5. MAIN SHOCK OCCURED NOVEMBER 23 AT 12:37, LASTED
ABOUT FIFTEEN SECONDS. HAD IT LASTED LONGER, DAMAGE WOULD
HAVE BEEN MUCH GREATER. TIMING WAS ALSO FORTUNATE, IN THAT
MOST PEOPLE HAD NOT ARRIVED HOME FROM WORK FOR LUNCH.

6. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM SEEN IN RECONSTRUCTION IS GRAVE
SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER BOTH ISLANDS.

DANIELS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EARTHQUAKES, DISASTER REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PONTA00258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PONTA DELGADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731249/aaaabjxg.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PONTA DELGADA 255
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : EARTHQUAKE PICO AND FAIAL
TAGS: CPRS, TPHY, PO
To: STATE LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005